September 28, 1956

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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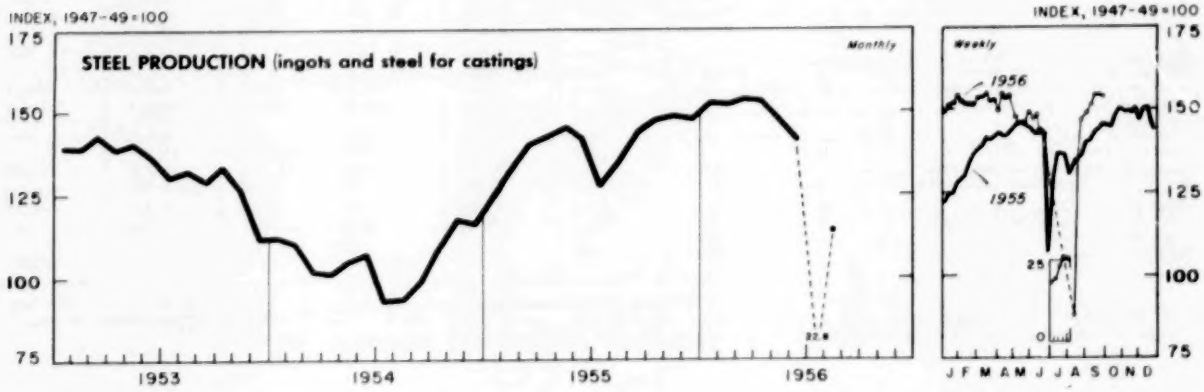
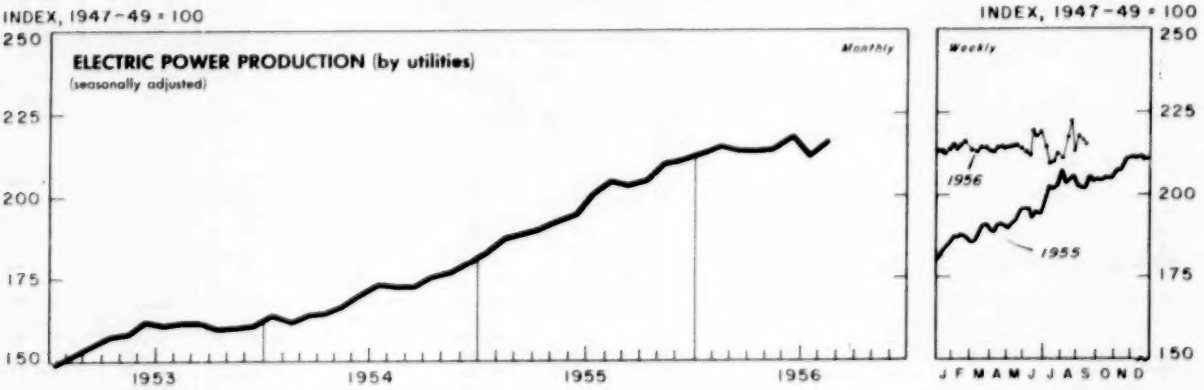
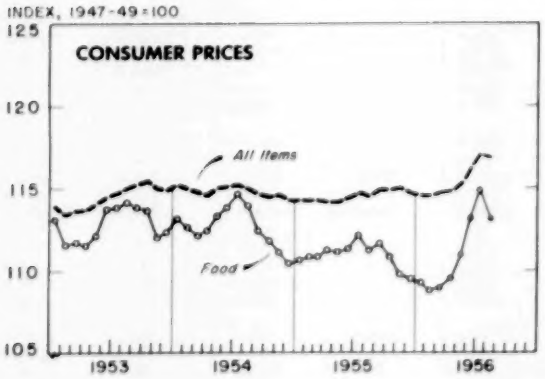
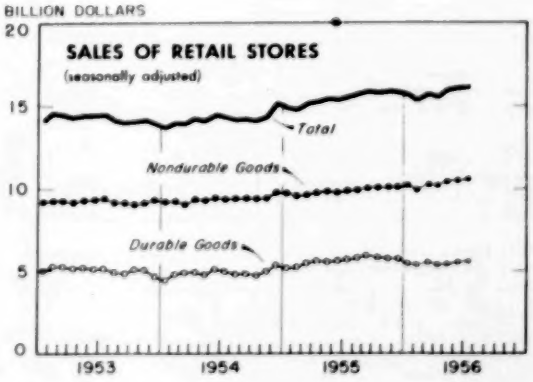
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS









WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Sept. 17	Sept. 24	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	Sept. 22
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*111.7	.....	114.8	115.1	115.1
Farm products.....do....	.....	*89.3	.....	89.2	90.2	90.0
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*101.5	.....	103.6	104.0	104.0
All other.....do....	.....	*118.5	.....	122.4	122.6	122.6
22 commodities 2/.....do....	89.8	89.6	90.4	90.5	91.2	91.9
Department store sales.....do....	125	121	128	112	130	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	965	911	1,081	1,160	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	870	824	980	1,058	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	30,520	30,401	30,618	30,787	30,910	30,810
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/....do....	25,577	25,613	25,404	25,454	25,934	25,852
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,750	18,767	18,883	18,800	19,088	19,220
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	608	576	499	449	717	735
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	56,110	56,263	55,381	54,920	55,777	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	21,606	21,640	21,974	21,946	22,046	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	84,735	84,516	85,541	85,684	85,868	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	30,940	30,546	26,576	26,501	26,545	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do....	24,400	24,570	29,168	29,355	29,554	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,188	8,216	8,738	8,747	8,775	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	191	171	237	196	203	171
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.31	3.31	3.68	3.71	3.74	3.76
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand.& Poor's) 4/..1935-39=100..	325.8	328.0	348.9	353.3	346.4	339.7
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	374.0	377.1	407.6	413.6	405.3	396.5
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,653	1,586	1,665	1,746	1,775	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	10,623	10,756	11,565	10,955	11,339	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	143,611	147,195	76,938	62,426	84,426	55,168
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,684	6,671	7,108	7,037	7,049	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,309	2,320	2,389	2,429	2,477	2,477
Percent of capacity 5/.....	#95.7	#96.1	97.0	98.7	100.6	100.6
Freight carloadings, total 6/.....thous. of cars..	702	817	784	680	821	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	337	399	386	330	392	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning September 24, 1956: Production, 2,466 thous. short tons; operating rate, 100.2 percent. 6/ Data for 1956 adjusted to revised classification of class I railroads. * Monthly index for September 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955		1956			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Industrial and commercial failures:						
Failures, total.....number..	861	888	1,164	1,105	1,018	1,101
Commercial service.....do....	68	59	94	93	87	95
Construction.....do....	102	134	132	163	141	146
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	179	158	245	183	165	195
Retail trade.....do....	423	430	575	551	540	567
Wholesale trade.....do....	89	107	118	115	85	98
Liabilities (current), total.....thous. of dol..	32,543	36,028	59,901	43,013	48,689	55,040
Commercial service.....do....	1,502	1,987	3,619	3,588	7,442	4,127
Construction.....do....	6,289	9,663	8,877	8,598	7,488	7,507
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	11,865	10,102	28,450	10,684	9,005	17,828
Retail trade.....do....	8,605	10,024	13,242	12,812	11,945	14,772
Wholesale trade.....do....	4,282	4,252	5,713	7,331	12,809	10,806
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumer price index, all items.....1947-49=100..	114.7	114.5	115.4	116.2	117.0	1/116.8
Apparel.....do....	103.2	103.4	104.8	104.8	105.3	105.5
Food.....do....	112.1	111.2	111.0	113.2	114.8	113.1
Dairy products.....do....	104.7	105.7	107.5	107.7	108.7	109.2
Fruits and vegetables.....do....	121.9	111.3	121.5	131.4	135.2	120.7
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do....	103.7	102.9	95.5	98.0	99.3	99.9
Housing.....do....	119.9	120.0	120.9	121.4	121.8	122.2
Gas and electricity.....do....	110.8	110.8	111.8	111.7	111.7	112.1
Housefurnishings.....do....	103.6	103.2	102.6	102.8	102.8	102.6
Rent.....do....	130.4	130.5	132.2	132.5	133.2	133.2
Medical care.....do....	127.9	128.0	131.9	132.0	132.7	133.3
Personal care.....do....	115.5	115.8	119.6	119.9	120.1	120.3
Reading and recreation.....do....	106.3	106.3	108.2	107.6	107.7	107.9
Transportation.....do....	125.4	125.4	127.1	126.8	127.7	128.5
Other goods and services.....do....	120.3	120.4	121.5	121.8	122.2	122.1
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by—						
Wholesale prices.....1947-49=100..	90.5	90.2	87.4	87.6	87.7	2/87.3
Consumer prices.....do....	87.2	87.3	86.7	86.1	85.5	2/85.6
Retail food prices.....do....	89.2	89.9	90.1	88.3	87.1	2/88.4

r/ Revised. 1/ Index based on 1935-39=100 is 195.3. 2/ Indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by—wholesale prices, 45.7; consumer prices, 51.2; retail food, 43.8.

ITEM	1955		1956			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Construction contracts awarded, 37 States (F.W.Dodge Corp.):						
Total projects.....number..	73,130	64,144	78,801	62,249	56,713	61,271
Total valuation.....mil. of dol..	2,272	1,895	2,480	2,198	2,149	2,069
Building, total.....do....	1,852	1,517	1,949	1,620	1,605	1,621
Highway concrete pavement contract awards: 1/						
Total.....thous. of sq. yd..	5,787	9,346	8,513	7,679	4,795	8,398
Airports.....do....	944	288	1,084	720	408	1,486
Roads.....do....	2,237	5,321	3,873	4,149	1,893	3,219
Streets and alleys.....do....	2,606	3,737	3,557	2,810	2,494	3,693
Construction cost index:						
E. H. Boeckh and Associates:						
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....U. S. avg. 1926-29=100..	266.1	266.7	276.8	278.0	279.6	280.2
Brick and steel.....do....	262.0	262.6	272.5	273.7	275.3	275.9
Brick and wood.....do....	264.3	264.9	275.4	276.1	276.7	277.2
Commercial and factory buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....do....	274.0	274.6	285.3	286.6	287.8	288.2
Brick and steel.....do....	271.9	272.4	282.2	283.5	286.7	287.3
Brick and wood.....do....	262.3	263.2	273.8	274.6	275.2	275.9
Frame.....do....	264.5	264.8	275.4	275.9	276.0	276.2
Steel.....do....	257.5	257.8	266.2	267.5	272.8	273.2
Residences:						
Brick.....do....	264.9	265.6	276.1	276.8	277.2	277.8
Frame.....do....	259.1	259.6	269.9	270.4	270.6	271.0
FINANCE						
Bank debits, total (344 centers).....mil. of dol..	161,748	167,343	185,584	186,540	181,284	183,819
New York City.....do....	58,904	58,980	69,452	70,733	65,873	67,279
6 other centers.....do....	34,123	35,863	38,766	38,937	38,653	38,206
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....do....	3,089	5,848	7,107	p12,574	3,927	5,959
Receipts, net.....do....	2,765	4,734	5,050	p11,576	3,485	4,954
Customs.....do....	54	55	63	p57	63	64
Income and employment taxes.....do....	1,924	4,459	5,780	p11,256	2,601	4,772
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do....	877	945	1,014	p966	970	1,030
All other receipts.....do....	234	390	251	p294	292	93
Expenditures, total.....do....	5,382	6,225	5,467	p6,783	5,542	5,902
Interest on public debt.....do....	592	522	561	p608	627	567
Veterans' services and benefits.....do....	361	428	432	p405	p368	p383
Major national security.....do....	3,046	3,583	3,433	p4,316	p2,951	p3,580
All other expenditures.....do....	1,383	1,692	1,040	p1,455	p1,595	p1,371
Turnover of demand deposits except interbank and U. S. Government, annual rate:						
New York City.....ratio of debits to deposits..	40.7	38.2	46.0	47.0	45.9	44.4
6 other centers.....do....	26.6	25.9	28.7	28.9	p29.7	p27.3
337 other reporting centers.....do....	20.4	19.9	21.7	21.6	p22.4	p21.2
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS						
Organic chemicals, production:						
Acetic acid (synthetic and natural).....thous. of lb..	43,987	44,647	44,221	46,410	44,480	.....
Acetic anhydride.....do....	66,359	69,499	77,102	74,232	73,797	.....
Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin).....do....	1,099	912	1,453	1,731	1,271	.....
Creosote oil.....thous. of gal..	r8,189	11,567	10,165	10,837	.....	.....
DDT.....thous. of lb..	11,334	11,277	13,712	12,100	11,927	.....
Ethyl acetate (85%).....do....	7,017	7,726	7,204	5,598	6,736	.....
Ethylene glycol.....do....	82,831	86,963	80,050	85,686	72,263	.....
Formaldehyde (37% HCHO).....do....	82,131	93,912	116,444	112,656	88,139	.....
Methanol:						
Natural (100%).....thous. of gal..	181	187	199	194	200	.....
Synthetic (100%).....do....	17,463	17,465	17,814	19,386	19,054	.....
Phthalic anhydride.....thous. of lb..	31,582	29,735	24,507	22,919	24,965	.....
Synthetic plastics and resin materials, production:						
Cellulose acetate and mixed ester plastics:						
Sheets, rods, and tubes.....thous. of lb..	2,283	3,390	3,481	4,055	2,355	.....
Molding and extrusion materials.....do....	6,271	7,681	7,458	r7,254	5,872	.....
Nitrocellulose sheets, rods, and tubes.....do....	260	413	569	487	344	.....
Other cellulose plastics.....do....	313	332	489	407	370	.....
Phenolic and other tar acid resins.....do....	30,288	39,087	41,746	r40,607	31,207	.....
Polystyrene.....do....	35,749	41,144	50,480	44,023	41,277	.....
Urea and melamine resins.....do....	17,110	22,416	23,455	r25,083	15,901	.....
Vinyl resins.....do....	54,628	57,022	63,977	r54,796	49,751	.....
Alkyd resins.....do....	31,979	35,886	31,968	r29,643	25,730	.....
Rosin modifications.....do....	12,303	10,767	11,493	r10,544	8,729	.....
FOODSTUFFS						
Rice, California:						
Receipts, domestic, rough.....thous. of lb..	89,733	23,349	50,211	35,037	68,841	90,993
Shipments from mills, milled rice.....do....	59,811	43,754	35,691	38,186	31,314	56,065
Stocks, rough and cleaned (cleaned basis), end of month.....do....	49,203	17,510	99,246	65,541	72,683	75,444

r/ Revised. p/Preliminary. 1/ Data for August 1955 and May and August 1956 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

ITEM	1955		1956			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
FOODSTUFFS - Continued						
Livestock:						
Cattle and calves:						
Receipts, principal markets.....thous. of animals..	1,965	2,596	2,124	2,146	2,543	2,686
Shipments, feeder, to 9 corn-belt States.....do....	169	1/264	196	201	226	580
Hogs:						
Receipts, principal markets.....do....	1,950	2,519	2,749	2,480	2,485	2,499
Sheep and lambs:						
Receipts, principal markets.....do....	1,044	1,288	1,054	1,047	1,184	1,403
Shipments, feeder, to 9 corn-belt States.....do....	147	1/269	121	113	151	361
LEATHER AND PRODUCTS						
Leather production:						
Calf and whole kip.....thous. of skins..	606	871	701	644	496	.....
Cattle hide and side kip.....thous. of hides and kips..	1,664	2,210	2,364	2,076	1,731	.....
Goat and kid.....thous. of skins..	1,828	2,000	2,544	2,061	1,797	.....
Sheep and lamb.....do....	1,622	2,560	2,360	r2,109	1,777	.....
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Steel forgings (for sale):						
Orders, unfilled, total.....thous. of short tons..	513.3	547.0	551.3	539.6	546.9	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	115.0	134.8	150.6	143.4	98.5	.....
Drop and upset.....do....	82.7	99.9	112.0	103.4	76.2	.....
Tin:						
Production, pig, total.....long tons..	1,147	1,986	2,250	1,211	2/207	.....
Imports for consumption:						
Ore.....do....	2,116	2,180	1,053	679	1,182	.....
Bars, pigs, etc.....do....	r5,474	5,520	4,801	4,482	4,577	.....
Consumption, pig, total.....do....	6,640	7,985	7,615	7,415	4,415	.....
Primary.....do....	4,520	5,310	5,230	5,045	2,455	.....
Exports, incl. reexports (metal).....do....	4	91	20	97	20	.....
Stocks, pig, end of month, total.....do....	16,362	16,348	15,411	15,222	16,787	.....
Industry.....do....	15,580	15,685	14,785	15,195	16,760	.....
Furnaces, industrial, new orders, net:						
Electric processing.....thous. of dol..	786	1,348	2,035	2,555	1,089	3,263
Fuel-fired (except for hot rolling steel).....do....	2,981	4,101	1,178	1,432	2,726	2,988
Machine tools (metal-cutting types):						
New orders (net), total.....mil. of dol..	62.20	62.05	87.10	61.85	r61.90	p87.45
Domestic.....do....	56.80	54.35	79.45	55.65	r55.25	p78.05
Shipments, total.....do....	45.20	48.65	76.80	76.25	r65.15	p75.10
Domestic.....do....	40.25	44.00	70.50	69.55	r60.70	p68.95
Estimated backlog.....months..	5.4	5.6	8.2	7.8	7.8	p7.7
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Railway equipment, American Railway Car Institute:						
Freight cars:						
Shipments, total.....number..	2,968	5,029	6,723	5,607	5,370	5,525
Equipment manufacturers, total.....do....	1,954	3,187	4,549	3,318	3,143	2,944
Domestic.....do....	1,284	1,935	4,493	3,261	3,117	2,783
Railroad shops, domestic.....do....	1,014	1,842	2,174	2,289	2,227	2,581
Passenger cars, equipment manufacturers:						
Orders unfilled, end of month, total.....do....	993	952	740	758	729	681
Domestic.....do....	977	937	720	737	715	672
Shipments, total.....do....	39	45	53	40	29	48
Domestic.....do....	33	42	44	36	22	43

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Revised to include data for South Dakota. 2/ Production by secondary plants only.

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